

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. At the September 1950 East CDU Party Congress, a so-called theological conference passed a resolution to accept a "people's church program". The leadership of the churches will either have to accept this program or suffer the consequences as "enemies of peace" under the extraordinary decrees promulgated recently in Eastern Germany.
 2. On the proposal of Otto Nuschke, who supervises church matters in the DDR, the program will be the basis for a general investigation of the clergy of the Evangelical Church in the Soviet Zone. The proposal was immediately implemented by the Office of State Security which ordered the minister presidents of the Laender to hold so-called "conferences of the clergy" in their respective Laender. The entire body of protestant clergy will be invited to attend these conferences to discuss the contribution of the churches to peace. At these conferences, the clergy will be advised that the October elections are to be proclaimed from the pulpits as the most important contribution to the preservation of peace.
 3. The names of numbers of the clergy who fail to attend these conferences will be entered on special lists and transmitted to the Office of State Security. Should any member of the clergy voice a dissident opinion during the course of one of these conferences, his name will also be entered in a report for the Office of State Security. Any member of the clergy who attempts to "sabotage" one of these conferences will be publicly branded an enemy of peace; some of the more important figures among such dissidents may eventually be brought to public trial.

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION

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